A

MEMORIAL

DELIVERED TO

His Majeſtie,

FROM THE

LORD *VAN-GOGH*,

Ambaſſador from the States General of the United Provinces.

Tranſlated into Engliſh.

WITH THE

ANSWER

WHICH HIS

SACRED MAJESTIE

Returned thereunto.

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THE MEMORIAL OF THE DUTCH AMBASSADOR TO His Majeſtie.

SIR,

THE under-written Ambaſſador of the States General of the United *Netherlands*, Your good Friends and Allies, having had the honor of ſeveral Audiences with Your *Majeſtie*, and therein made known to You ſuch Orders as he hath from time to time received from his Maſters, upon occaſion of, and concerning divers affairs, and eſpecially theſe following: To wit,

Seeing it is underſtood and perceived, that Veſſels of War are fitting and preparing on both ſides, which if they go forth to Sea and meet there together, might by ſome miſunderſtanding fall foul upon one another; Your *Majeſtie* would therefore be pleaſed to keep back Your Fleet, and not ſuffer it to go to Sea, as their Lordſhips offer on their part to do; the

whole intent and deſign tending onely to the ſafety of both parties, and the prevention of the foreſaid ſiniſter encounters.

Moreover, Whereas their Lordſhips have been informed, that Captain *Holmes* with the Veſſels under his Command hath now again (as heretofore) done very great and enormous injuries to the *Netherlandiſh* Company of the *Weſt-Indies*, by taking divers of their Veſſels upon the Coaſt of *Africk*, as alſo by making himſelf Maſter of ſome places and Forts belonging unto them, and namely, amongſt others of *Capo Verde*, *&c.* which is directly contrary, not onely to the Treaty laſt concluded between Your *Majeſtie* and the States of the United Provinces, but alſo to mutual Amity and good neighbourhood: The ſaid Ambaſſador did therefore in the name of his Superiors, demand reſtitution of the ſame, and that reparation might be made of the damages and intereſts, which the ſaid Company and other Subjects of their Lordſhips, who were concerned, have ſuffered thereby; as alſo that the like proceedings and violences might be prevented for the future by an expreſs Order.

In the third place, That their Lordſhips being from day to day confirmed by certain intelligence coming from that Coaſt, that the foreſaid action of Captain *Holmes* had not onely been effected in the manner above ſpecified, but alſo that he was intended to carry on his deſign further, by making incurſions and ſeizing upon all the Coaſt, and that for his better ſucceſs therein, he expected a notable ſupply of ſhips from *England*, as the whole matter may be proved by the Teſtimony and Depoſitions of credible perſons

ſons newly come from thence : Which actions being without right, reaſon and equity, and which conſequently cannot be endured, nor looked upon with a good eye, Your *Majeſtie* was entreated that it might be Your good Pleaſure to command as well the ſaid Captain *Holmes*, as others who were in that engagement, or are held to have been employed therein, not onely to reſtore the foreſaid Forts and Veſſels ſo taken, and to repair the damages thereby ſuffered (as reaſon requires) but alſo that the ſhips which by report are now ready to ſet ſail, or which may be fitting for that end, may by your *Majeſties* expreſs Command, be prohibited and charged not to do, or cauſe any other injury or damage to the ſaid Company, or to any other the Subjects of the United Provinces.

Fourthly, Foraſmuch as the poor and afflicted Reformed Churches in the Valleys of *Piedmont* have repreſented, that after the agreement made with his Royal Highneſs the Duke of *Savoy* ſome while ſince, they are again overwhelmed and ruined by exactions and charges required of them to defray the expences of the Army, which the ſaid Duke had commanded againſt them, which charges amounted to ſo high a ſum, that it was impoſſible for them to make it up, for the reaſons more at large alledged in their Remonſtrance ; therefore they have deſired the interceſſion of the States General with Your *Majeſtie*, that Your Ambaſſador in the Court of *France* may have order to procure from his Moſt Chriſtian *Majeſtie* (as being Mediator between his ſaid Royal Highneſs and them) as much favour and comfort to thoſe poor afflicted Churches as can poſſibly by any means be obtained. And

And finally, conſidering that the Veſſels coming from the United Provinces into the Rivers, Streams and Roads of this Kingdom, are ſtopped there, under pretence that there be Perſons and Commodities on board which come from places infected with the Plague, or at leaſt ſuſpected to be ſo, by which means the freedom of Trade and Paſſage is obſtructed and diſturbed, to the great prejudice of the inhabitants of both Nations: The ſaid Ambaſſador therefore inſiſted thereupon, that the ſame might be remedied, or at leaſt, that the ſtrictneſs of thoſe Orders might be mitigated in ſuch meaſure as in reaſon ſhall be found convenient; and that the rather, becauſe, by the mercy of God, all the Provinces in general are not infected with the Contagion.

To all that is above ſaid, Your *Majeſtie* hath been pleaſed to anſwer in effect, to wit, upon the firſt point, touching keeping of the Fleet from going to Sea, That the numbers which were fitted and prepared on Your *Majeſties* ſide, being no way extraordinary, but onely for common and cuſtomary uſe, and without deſign of bringing any damage or inconvenience upon the inhabitants of the united Provinces, the ſaid Veſſels could not be kept from going to Sea, becauſe Your *Majeſties* Honour was engaged therein; Nevertheleſs, that You would give ſuch Orders to the chief Commander of Your ſaid Fleet, that their Lordſhips ſhall have no cauſe to apprehend any ſiniſter encounters from it.

As to the ſecond, touching the action of Captain *Holmes*, Your *Majeſtie* thought good to anſwer thereunto, That You had received no information of it, and that having given no Order for his ſo doing, You would

would cauſe reparation to be made, if the matter proved to be true, and that the ſaid Captain *Holmes* ſhould be puniſhed according as the caſe ſhould require: Nevertheleſs, adding thereunto afterwards at another Audience, that the *Weſt-India* Company had likewiſe done much damage to Your *Majeſties* ſubjects upon the ſaid Coaſt, pretending to be Maſters thereof to themſelves alone; which thing ought to be conſidered alſo in its proper ſeaſon, judging it unreaſonable and unjuſt that the Trade of the *Engliſh* upon that Coaſt ſhould continually be diſturbed and hindred.

And as to the third, Your *Majeſtie* was pleaſed to ſay as before, That You had received no information of *Holmes* his actions in thoſe parts; and for ſo much as concerned the Ships which are ready to ſet ſail towards the Coaſt of *Africk*, that they were not in a condition to make any attempt there, being onely Merchant-men, unto which there was added but one Man of War for their Convoy.

For what regards the poor *Piemontoies*, That You were ſenſibly touched with the miſerable condition of thoſe Churches and People, and for that reaſon Your *Majeſtie* had already given Order to Your Ambaſſador in *France*, to contribute unto their relief and comfort in Your name; But foraſmuch as at preſent there occur ſome new difficulties concerning the ſaid Churches, Your *Majeſtie* would adviſe more particularly thereupon.

And laſtly, concerning the Merchants ſhips which come from the United Provinces into this Kingdom, and are ſtopped without permiſſion to Land any where, becauſe they are ſuſpected to come from

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ſome place infected with the Sickneſs, there being no diſtinction made between Provinces and Cities really afflicted with the ſaid Contagion, and thoſe which are not ſo at all; That Your Majeſtie having an extraordinary apprehenſion of that diſeaſe, had great reaſon to uſe all poſſible precaution againſt it; Notwithſtanding, that the buſineſs ſhould alſo be thought upon more fully.

All which *points* aboveſaid, having been repeated by the ſaid Ambaſſador at his laſt Audience, and inſtance thereupon made, that according to their Lordſhips deſires Your Majeſtie would be pleaſed to explain Your Self in Writing, to put the mindes of his Superiors out of perplexity and diſquiet; and Your Majeſtie having to that purpoſe deſired, that all ſhould be comprized in a Memorial for an Anſwer to be given thereunto in Writing: The ſaid Memorial (may it pleaſe Your Majeſtie) is here moſt humbly preſented, with like prayer, that ſuch Order may be taken therein, as that by a favourable anſwer (which the ſaid Ambaſſador expects from Your Majeſtie) he may be enabled to give his Maſters content.

From *Chelſey*,
July 31. 1664.

M. Van-Gogh.

BIBLIOTHECA PUBLICA

HIS Majesties Answer

to the fore-going

MEMORIAL.

THe Ambassador of the united Provinces having so particularly set down the Answers he received from Us in his several Audiences to his particular demands; Albeit We think he may well acquiesce with the same, yet since he hath thought fit by his Memorial to desire an Answer in Writing, We are very well pleased to satisfie him herein, that the States General may see the sincerity of Our Proceedings towards them.

Concerning the preparations and provision of Vessels of War, it is notoriously known, that in the beginning of this year We gave order for the providing a less guard of Ships for the Summer then hath been set out any year since Our happy Restoration for that season, believing Our Self to be in so good Intelligence with all Our Neighbours, that We might well save that charge; When Our Parliament, upon the Cry of the whole Nation, with some earnestness pressed

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ſed Us to take an extraordinary way to repair Our People for the many and daily injuries they ſuſtained from the Subjects of the United Provinces by depredations at Sea, in other places as well as in the *Eaſt-Indies*, in which there were ſome circumſtances of that preſumption, in declaring their Dominion, and inhibiting of Commerce againſt the Law of Nations, as all Princes are equally concerned therein with Us; We made no other anſwer to Our Parliament, then that We made no doubt but that Our good Allies, the States of the United Provinces, to whom in truth the Injuries ſuſtained could not reaſonably (We thought) be imputed, would cauſe Juſtice to be done; in order to which, We would appoint Our Miniſter reſiding there to make a repreſentation and complaint. For which temper and moderation (when, it may be, another Reſolution, conſidering the nature of the Provocations, would have been more agreeable to the deſires of Our Parliament) We expected the thanks of Our good Neighbours, when on the contrary they no ſooner received advice of this anſwer returned by Us, then in a very extraordinary manner they gave direction for the preſent ſetting out of a very great number of Ships of War, without any other viſible cauſe than to manifeſt to the World how much they defied Us and Our Parliament. Upon all which, as We ſhould have been thought to have had very little foreſight for our Honour or Intereſt, if We had not prepared a conſiderable Fleet for Our defence, (the charge and expence whereof We would have been very glad to have prevented) ſo the ſame being prepared, it will be thought a very ſtrange Propoſition, that it be ſtill kept within the Ports; And it will be found by their demeanour,

that

that their Inſtructions are not to do any injury to Our Neighbours and Friends, but to defend Our Self, Our Dominions, and Our Subjects from receiving injuries from Our Enemies. Nor in truth can We believe or imagine that the United Provinces (from whom We have deſerved well, and with whom We are ready to maintain a faſt Friendſhip, to which many other conſiderations, beſides that great one of the Proteſtant Religion, ſhould diſpoſe both of Us) will deny to do Us Juſtice upon Our reaſonable demands, or that they will ever ſacrifice the peace of their Country for the ſupport of the miſcarriages of particular perſons, or a particular Company, who We find by experience more conſiders their own profit and Intereſt than the Honour or Safety of the Government under which they live; which the States General will well weigh and conſider.

As We did with great frankneſs, and as an everlaſting manifeſtation of Our affection and kindneſs, conclude the late Treaty with the United Provinces, by which many very memorable diſcourteſies and injuries to Our Self and Our people, and particularly that of *Amboyna*, were put in Oblivion; ſo We have moſt exactly obſerved every Article in Our part, and have no ſooner been moved in any particular in which the Subjects of the United Provinces have been grieved, then we have given Order for their redreſs, in the moſt expedite way, without putting them to thoſe formalities which are uſual in Courts of Juſtice: Whereas We are very ſorry to ſay, that upon all the Complaints made at the *Hague* by Our Miniſter, in which the matter of Fact hath been moſt notorious

and convincing, and the Right moſt apparent, redreſs hath not been given to any one, and ſuch delays uſed in all, as are upon the matter and in the conſequence of it a plain denial of Juſtice, which brings every day great complaints to Us from Our Subjects of all Parts: Notwithſtanding all which, We have not to this day granted one Letter of Mart upon the Subjects of the United Provinces.

Concerning Captain *Holmes*, We have with great ſincerity aſſured the Ambaſſador that he had no Commiſſion to take *Capo Verde*, nor any other place belonging to the Dutch, or to do any act of hoſtility upon any of the Subjects of the United Provinces, that was not for the defence of Our Subiects and their Trade into thoſe Parts: And we cannot but expect, that this Our free Declaration ſhould find more credit with Our Allies then any Informations or Examinations of Marriners and Seamen, who ſeldom know what they inform. We expect the ſaid Captain *Holmes* his Arrival here every day, and will then, upon due enquiry into all that he hath done, determine what is juſt. The Ships at preſent deſigned for thoſe Parts are Ships of Trade, and have neither power nor will to wrong the Subjects of the United Provinces. But We are very heartily ſorry to hear, not from general rumour, or the looſe diſcourſes of hear-ſayes, but from the pregnant Evidence and full information of Our Governour of Our Port of *Cormantine*, That about the end of *January* laſt, the Commanders of the Ships belonging to the *Dutch Weſt-India* Company, after many aſſaults upon Our Merchants Ships in thoſe Seas, and forbidding

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and reſtraining them from Trade, did ſtir up and hire the King of *Fantine* to aſſault and ſurprize that Our Caſtle of *Cormantine*, and to put the ſame into their hands for the price of ſixty *Bendys*, whereof one half was paid down by the ſaid *Dutch* Commanders, with this condition likewiſe, that the ſaid Natives ſhould enjoy to themſelves all the plunder of that Our ſaid Caſtle. In purſuance of which infamous Contract, and the better to enable them to perform the ſame, the *Dutch* Commanders ſupplyed the ſaid King of *Fantine* with a good quantity of Muskets, Powder and Cartages; whereof Our Commander having notice, by the bleſſing of God ſurprized the ſame: which it may be is one of the Acts of Hoſtility whereof mention is made in this Memorial, We having no notice of any other. Two Men of War, belonging to the *Dutch* Company, came from the *Mina* to *Cape Coaſt* to attend this enterprize at the time appointed, and accordingly the King of *Fantine* upon the fifth day of *February* laſt came with five hundred Men in hope to have ſurprized Our Caſtle; but finding himſelf diſcovered, and forced to retire with ſome loſs, he advanced again the next day with a Body of three thouſand men, and continued a ſharp fight with Our Men for the ſpace of four hours, after which time he was beaten off with great loſs, and hath ſince with ſhame and ſorrow acknowledged his breach of faith towards Us, and declared the motives and Contract aforeſaid; the *Dutch* Ships at the ſame time driving a ſmall Ship belonging to Our Merchants under the comman of Captain *Borthwick* into Our Port of *Inaſhange*, anchored by him, hindred all the Canoes from coming on board him, and took his Boat and

five

five Men, which they would not restore till they found their other enterprize had miscarried. We cannot in any degree doubt that the States of the United Provinces will manifest their detestation of this perfidious design, and cause exemplary Justice to be done upon the persons guilty of it, which We expect and require; and that instead of sending Ships of War to justifie these unwarrantable and scandalous proceedings, (which would be attended with ill effects, and would insensibly procure a war between the two Nations, which we desire to prevent,) their wisdoms will reprehend and warn their *West-India* Company, that they hereafter forbear those out-rages, and that they do not presume under the stile of Merchants to usurp the Prerogative of Princes, and assume such a Dominion to themselves, as, if it were in truth vested in them, would not warrant them to inhibit Traffick and Commerce with their Neighbours, but must incense all Christian Princes against their presumption.

Concerning the Reformed Churches in the valleys of *Piedmont*, towards whom We have expressed Our compassion and charity in a contribution since Our happy Restoration, as We will be alwayes ready to relieve and protect the afflicted State of any Protestant Churches to Our power; We being not fully informed of their condition, or the grounds of their late sufferings, know not what more to do, than to desire the Most Christian King to use his mediation, which We doubt not but he will do upon the desire of our Ambassador in Our Name, and according to Our directions.

We

We are exceedingly afflicted for thoſe places within the Dominions of the United Provinces which are at preſent infected with the plague, and do heartily pray to God that he will ſpeedily withdraw that his Viſitation from them, and in the mean time do in a great degree ſuffer with them, by the ſuſpending that Traffick and Commerce which is ſo much for the good of both Nations: But it cannot be expected or deſired that We will neglect or decline that provident care of Our people which is due to them, in uſing all poſſible means to preſerve them from that Contagion, which cannot be done without ſuch reſtraints, which for the preſent with great loſs and dammage to both people, and to which we hope the goodneſs of God will ſhortly put a period, by making the correſpondence as ſafe and wholſom as it hath been, and reſtoring perfect health to the places now infected, as well as to their Neighbours, who cannot but in a degree ſuffer with them, though they are not under the ſame calamity.

We having now complyed with the Ambaſſadors deſires in giving this particular Anſwer in writing to his Memorial, and to all that he hath propoſed to Us, We make no queſtion but he will faithfully tranſmit the ſame to Our good Friends and Allies the United Provinces, and We deſire him the ſaid Ambaſſador to aſſure them, that We are ſo firmly reſolved to maintain a firm Amity and Friendſhip with them, that a War (by the bleſſing of God) cannot fall out between Us, except they depart from all rules of Juſtice, and ſuffer their Subjects to involve them in a

War

War to support the wrong they do their Neighbours against all Right; which We are moſt confident they will never be induced to do, and which miſchief (of which no man can foreſee the end) their great Wiſdoms will prevent.

CHARLES. R.

By His Majeſties Command.

Wil. Morice.

FINIS.